



# JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

*“Success and Productivity for Every Student”*

October 26, 2017

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

RE: Proceedings 13-184: Hands-off E-Rate Category 2 Funds, Please.

As the Instructional Technology and Professional Development Center Coordinator for Jefferson County Schools, a mid-sized rural public school district in East Tennessee and a resident of Knoxville, Tennessee, I implore you to reject any suggestions to transfer, redistribute, or in any way, minimize the E-Rate Category 2 funds for schools. These funds are essential to the success of our students.

The Jefferson County Schools District has already used some or all of its E-Rate Category 2 allotment for the following items: Additional CAT 6 cabling, updated POE switches, updating older model access points with the newest 802.11ac wireless access points. The connectivity provided by these Category 2 items has improved our school or district's educational experience in the following ways: ability to begin a 1:1 classroom solution using laptops which connect through our enterprise wireless network. Our School District expanded from 35 mobile carts two years ago, to our current count of 131 mobile carts with 30 computers in each cart. This has allowed students in classrooms to have access to technology without the burden of adding additional buildings, as like most other School District's, we utilize every square foot of floor space.

In addition, we have begun moving to an online curriculum and the importance of connecting to the “cloud” has never been greater. As more and more SaaS (Software as a Solution) solutions are implemented in our District, we are relying heavily on our wireless connections.

The Jefferson County Schools District plans to use all of its E-Rate Category 2 allotment by 2020 for the following items: Additional CAT 6 cabling, updated POE switches, updating older model access points with the newest 802.11ac wireless access points. We anticipate that the connectivity provided by these Category 2 items will improve our school or district's educational experience in the following way: Continued increase in the quantity of access points and quality of wireless access is essential to our 20/20 Vision for Blended and Personalized Learning. A key element of this vision is success for all. Success for all required access for all. To further limit the funds available for schools to provide online access to our students, particularly those in rural areas that may not have access at home, is detrimental to our students and the future of our community and nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

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